

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (currently amended) A friction management method for a support object supporting a portion of a human body having support bones, tissue around the support bones and skin on an outer side of the tissue, including selecting pressure regions of high loads when load is carried between the object and the human body supported, applying one or more selected individual patches interfaced between the object and the skin in the selected regions; each selected individual patch having defined peripheral edges to encircle an entire individual patch and being unattached to and independent of the support object or any other object adjacent the tissue until the patch is adhesively secured, the selected patches being made of material having an exposed surface of low friction extending throughout the exposed surface within the peripheral edges wherein the exposed surface has a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene, and adhesively securing a patch in each selected area to the object or the tissue using a pressure sensitive adhesive.

14. (currently amended) The friction management method of claim 13, wherein the object comprises a shoe, and the selected regions include the metatarsal-phalangeal joint region.

15. (previously presented) The friction management method of claim 14, wherein the calcaneus region comprises the region supported on low friction surface patches.

16. (original) The friction management method of claim 13, wherein the object comprises a prosthetic device having a socket for receiving a portion of a limb to be supported, and providing patches at specific high load locations between an interior surface of the socket and a supported limb.

17. (currently amended) A method of reducing trauma to tissue supported on an object including

steps of identifying a region where shear load on tissue is likely to cause damage, and providing an individual low friction surface patch having a peripheral edge defining the patch between the region of shear load and the object supporting the tissue, the low friction surface patch having a low friction surface extending continuously within the peripheral edge wherein the low friction surface has a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene by and adhesively securing the patch to one of the tissue or the object using a pressure sensitive adhesive, the patch being independent of the object or any other object adjacent the tissue until the patch is adhesively secured.

18. (cancelled).

19. (original)        The method of claim 17, wherein the selecting step includes identifying support regions where low friction surface patches are omitted.

20. (currently amended)    The method of claim 17 including the step of providing a patch having a low coefficient of friction surface ~~material~~-exposed on oppositely facing support surfaces of the patch.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 including one of the steps of adding and relocating at least one low friction surface patch after the tissue has been loaded against on the object for a period of time.

22. (previously presented) The friction management system of claim 13, wherein the patches are removably affixed to the portions of the object.

23. (previously presented) A method of reducing trauma to highly shear loaded tissue supported under load against exposed support surfaces of an object only in selected region of the exposed support surface, including selecting at least one region of high load where shear load on tissue is likely to cause or has caused discomfort, and providing a plurality of low friction surface patches

comprising a polytetrafluoroethylene film having a bonded stretch fabric on one side of the film such that the film moves with the stretch fabric and releasably securable to the exposed support surface, applying at least one of the patches between at least one selected region of high load and the exposed support surface of the object and conforming the stretch fabric to contours of the support surface in the at least one selected region by supporting the tissue such that only the selected region is supported on a low friction surface patch.

24-25 (cancelled)